AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended) A process for making a plastic sleeve having an internal diameter and a circumferential rib projecting inward from the internal diameter at one end of the sleeve and an external first groove aligned with the rib, the rib being for securing said plastic sleeve to a member having a second external groove for receiving the rib, the process comprising the steps of:

(a) feeding plastic into an extruder die;

(b) extruding the plastic from the extruder die as a molten plastic stream into a mold cavity having an inner wall with dimensions greater than the outside dimensions of the molten plastic stream, a first end of the inner wall including a first projection extending radially inward of the mold cavity and circumferentially completely around the mold cavity; and

(c) vacuum expanding the molten plastic stream radially against the mold cavity inner wall and around the projection to form a plastic sleeve with the circumferential rib and the aligned external first groove at one end of the plastic sleeve,

wherein said inner wall further includes a second end and a corrugated portion between said first end and said second end, and said vacuum expanding step includes the step of expanding said plastic stream radially against the second end and the corrugated portions, and

~~The process of claim 2~~ wherein said second end includes a second projection extending radially inward of the mold cavity and circumferentially completely around the mold cavity, and said vacuum expanding step includes the step of expanding said plastic stream radially around the second projection.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently amended) An apparatus for making a plastic sleeve having an internal diameter and a circumferential rib projecting inwardly from the internal diameter at one end of the sleeve and an external first groove aligned with the rib, the rib being for securing the plastic sleeve to a member having a second external groove for receiving the rib, the apparatus comprising:

an extruder die for extruding a molten plastic stream;

a mold cavity for receiving plastic from said extruder die, said mold cavity having an inner wall with dimensions greater than the outside dimensions of the molten plastic stream, a first end of said inner wall including a

first projection extending radially inward of the mold cavity and circumferentially completely around said mold cavity; and

a vacuum system for expanding the molten plastic stream radially against the mold cavity inner wall and around the projection to form a plastic sleeve with the circumferential rib and the aligned external first groove at one end of the sleeve,

wherein said inner wall further includes a second end and a corrugated portion between said first end and said second end, and

~~The apparatus of claim 6~~ wherein said second end includes a second projection extending radially inward of the mold cavity and circumferentially completely around the mold cavity.

Claim 8 (New) The process of claim 3 wherein the step of feeding plastic into an extruder die includes the steps of providing a first plastic material into the extruder die from a first hopper and providing a second, different plastic material into the extruder die from a second, different hopper.

Claim 9 (New) The process of claim 8 wherein the step of extruding the plastic from the extruder die further includes the steps of forming an outer layer of the plastic sleeve from the first plastic material and forming an inner layer of the plastic sleeve from the second plastic material.

Claim 10 (New) The process of claim 3 further including the steps of cooling the plastic after the molded plastic stream has been vacuum expanded, and cutting the cooled plastic in a location near the circumferential rib.

Claim 11 (New) The apparatus of claim 7 further including a first hopper for providing a first plastic material into the extruder die and a second hopper for providing a second, different plastic material into the extruder die.

Claim 12 (New) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the extrusion die is configured to form inner and outer layers of the plastic sleeve, the outer layer of the plastic sleeve being formed from the first plastic material and the inner layer of the plastic sleeve being formed from the second plastic material.

Claim 13 (New) The apparatus of claim 7 further including a cutter for cutting the plastic sleeve in a location near the circumferential rib.